

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CARMEN F. GUARINO  
COMMISSIONER

WATER DEPARTMENT

1180 MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107

December 19, 1975

Mr. William Turner, Chairman  
Delaware County Regional Water  
Quality Control Authority  
Fifth and Welsh Streets  
Chester, Pennsylvania 19013

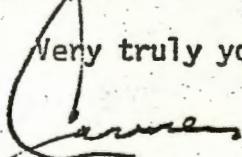
Dear Bill:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Wes Gilbertson of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources which describes the Philadelphia Water Department's position with regard to the pending DELCORA tie-in at Southwest this month.

I can only reiterate the Department's desire to cooperate in the concept of regionalization. If, however, the current series of suits against the City result in more stringent interim requirements upon its wastewater discharges, we will reluctantly refuse to accept additional wastewater flows to our system, over and above today's quantities. I feel of all the alternatives at my disposal a decrease in the load to our system may assist us in meeting the proposed interim measures and reduce a rate increase of questionable return on the citizens of Philadelphia.

We urge you to contact the PaDER to initiate discussions on this matter. We look forward to your continued cooperation in the NPDES adjudicatory hearing and in a resolution of the aforementioned problem.

Very truly yours,



Carmen F. Guarino  
Commissioner

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Mr. Wesley Gilbertson  
Deputy Secretary  
Environmental Protection and Regulation  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental  
Resources  
Post Office Box 2063  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Wes:

Under the terms of our agreement with the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (DELCORA), the City of Philadelphia is expected to accept an additional 14 MGD of wastewater, by the end of 1975, at our Southwest facility.

Normally, we would be inclined to treat this additional flow as a result of our commitment to the regionalization concept orchestrated in part by the PaDER. However, the City of Philadelphia is currently engaged in an appeal of certain terms of its NPDES permits issued by Region III of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Intervening parties in this appeal process have alledged that the City is not currently meeting the treatment levels required under these permits. These intervenors, through other legal channels, have concurrently urged stringent action against the City on these same issues. There has been substantial indication that Region III of the USEPA is in sympathy with these charges.

Various remedies have been suggested in addition to an expensive interim treatment program of questionable benefit. Among the remedial actions suggested have been pretreatment of compatible pollutants by industries using the City's system and/or curtailment of City service to outlying communities which use the system.

Mr. Wesley Gilbertson  
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Since the outcome of these litigations is uncertain, our acceptance of the additional DELCORA flow is conditional. If the City is ordered to reduce its loading to the river on an interim basis, we will be forced to refuse acceptance of the DELCORA flow or any other requests to discharge to our system over and above our present quantities.

We have participated in the regionalization concept with the full understanding that the impact to the environment from these outlying flows would be minimized when disposed of through our pollution control system. You will agree that the provisions of the NPDES permit, however, impose additional limits on Philadelphia's discharge which were not anticipated when agreements, such as that with DELCORA, were drawn. In this regard, I believe that your good offices in bringing together the outlying communities, the City, the State, and Region III of the USEPA might be very productive. We stand ready to cooperate fully in such an undertaking.

Very truly yours,



CARMEN F. GUARINO  
COMMISSIONER